## **AMENDMENT**

## In the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

- 1. (Amended) A transgenic mouse, the cells of which comprise at least one endogenous altered LXR $\alpha$  allele that cannot express LXR $\alpha$  that responds to dietary cholesterol.
- 2. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein said cells comprise two endogenous altered LXRα alleles that cannot express LXRα that responds to dietary cholesterol.
- 4. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein a transcript produced from said endogenous altered LXRα allele contains an interruption in the LXRα coding sequence.
- 5. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 2, wherein a transcript produced from said endogenous altered LXR $\alpha$  alleles both contain an interruption in the LXR $\alpha$  coding sequences.
- 6. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein said endogenous altered LXR $\alpha$  allele contains a nonsense mutation that truncates the corresponding encoded LXR $\alpha$  polypeptide.

7. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 2, wherein said endogenous altered LXRα alleles both contain a nonsense mutation that truncates the corresponding encoded LXRα polypeptide.

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- 8. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein said endogenous altered LXR $\alpha$  allele contains a deletion of LXR $\alpha$  coding sequences.
- 9. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 2, wherein said endogenous altered LXRα alleles both contain a deletion of LXRα coding sequences.
- (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein said endogenous altered LXRα
  allele contains a mutation in the 5' regulatory region of the LXRα gene.
- 11. (Amended) The transgenic mouse of claim 2, wherein said altered endogenous LXR $\alpha$  alleles both contain a mutation in the 5' regulatory region of the LXR $\alpha$  genes.
- 21. (Amended) A method for screening a candidate substance for the ability to reduce cholesterol levels in a mammal comprising:
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- (a) providing a transgenic mouse, the cells of which comprise at least one endogenous altered LXR $\alpha$  allele that cannot express LXR $\alpha$  that responds to dietary cholesterol;
- (b) treating said mouse with said candidate substance; and

(c) monitoring a cholesterol-related phenotype in said mouse,

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wherein a reduction in said cholesterol-related phenotype in said mouse treated with said candidate substance, as compared to a similar mouse not treated with said candidate substance, indicates that said candidate substance reduces cholesterol levels.

- 26. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said cells comprise two endogenous alteredLXRα alleles that cannot express LXRα that responds to dietary cholesterol.
- 27. (Amended) A method for screening a candidate substance for the ability to increase bile acid synthesis in a mammal comprising:
  - (a) providing a transgenic mouse, the cells of which comprise at least one endogenous altered LXR $\alpha$  allele that cannot express LXR $\alpha$  that responds to dietary cholesterol;
  - (b) treating said mouse with said candidate substance; and
  - (c) monitoring a bile acid-related phenotype in said mouse,

wherein an increase in said bile acid-related phenotype in said mouse treated with said candidate substance, as compared to a similar mouse not treated with said candidate substance, indicates that said candidate substance increases bile acid synthesis.